

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for guiding a user in the capture of digital images in a digital camera,
2 comprising:
 - providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates;
 - 4 activating, in response to the selection of an image template, a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera;
 - 6 capturing, in response to an input, a digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each image template has an associated sample image.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context replaces the sample image associated with the selected image template.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 presenting the collection of image templates as browseable graphics on a display of the digital camera.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 presenting the collection of image templates in at least one of a textual list and a graphical list on a display of the digital camera.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 indicating for which image templates a digital image has already been
captured in the corresponding image capture context.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is
selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture
4 context.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein indicating on a display of the digital camera

2 which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding
image capture context comprises displaying a textual title of the selected image
4 template in a live preview mode of the digital camera.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein each image template has an associated sample

2 image and indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is
selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context
4 comprises displaying a thumbnail image of the associated sample image in a live
preview mode of the digital camera.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein each image template has an associated sample

2 image and indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is
selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context

4 comprises faintly superimposing the associated sample image over a live preview
mode of the digital camera.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 providing, on a display of the digital camera, textual instructions for
capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding
4 image capture context.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the textual instructions are superimposed over a
2 live preview mode of the digital camera.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the textual instructions are displayed separately
2 from a live preview mode of the digital camera.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 providing audible instructions in the digital camera for capturing the
digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture
4 context.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 composing automatically a photo album comprising, for each of at
least one image template, one of a sample image associated with that image
4 template and a digital image captured in the image capture context
corresponding to that image template.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the photo album is composed in the digital
2 camera.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the photo album is composed on a device
2 external to the digital camera.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein providing, in the digital camera, a collection of
2 image templates comprises downloading the collection of image templates to the
digital camera from an external device.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the collection of image templates has a theme.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the theme is a place.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the theme is a special event.
22. A method for guiding a user in the capture of digital images in a digital camera,
2 comprising providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates, each
image template having a corresponding image capture context in the digital
4 camera.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein each image template has an associated sample
2 image, each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a
digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context.

24. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 an imaging module to convert optical images to digital images; and
- 4 a memory to store a collection of image templates, each image template having a corresponding image capture context in which a digital image may be captured by the imaging module.

25. The digital camera of claim 24, wherein each image template has an associated

- 2 sample image, each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context.

26. A digital camera, comprising:

- 2 a memory to store a collection of image templates;
- 4 image template control logic configured to activate, in response to the selection of an image template, a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera; and
- 6 an imaging module to capture, in response to an input, a digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.

27. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein each image template has an associated

- 2 sample image.

28. The digital camera of claim 27, wherein the image template control logic is

- 2 configured to replace the associated sample image with the digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context.

29. The digital camera of claim 26, further comprising:

- 2 a communication interface through which to receive the collection of
image templates from an external device.

30. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is
2 configured to indicate on the display which image template is selected while the
digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.

31. The digital camera of claim 30, wherein the image template control logic is
2 configured to display a textual title of the selected image template in a live
preview mode of the digital camera.

32. The digital camera of claim 30, wherein each image template has an associated
2 sample image and the image template control logic is configured to display a
thumbnail image of the associated sample image in a live preview mode of the
4 digital camera.

33. The digital camera of claim 30, wherein each image template has an associated
2 sample image and the image template control logic is configured to superimpose
faintly the associated sample image over a live preview mode of the digital
4 camera.

34. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is further
2 configured to provide instructions for capturing the digital image while the digital
camera is in the corresponding image capture context.

35. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is further
 - 2 configured to compose automatically a photo album comprising, for each of at least one image template, one of a sample image associated with that image
 - 4 template and a digital image captured in the image capture context corresponding to that image template.
36. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic
 - 2 comprises program code configured to read the collection of image templates.
37. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the collection of image templates and the
 - 2 image template control logic comprise an integrated collection of program code.
38. The digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic operates
 - 2 in conjunction with a menu system of the digital camera.
39. A digital camera, comprising:
 - 2 means for converting optical images to digital images; and
 - means for storing a collection of image templates, each image template
 - 4 having a corresponding image capture context in which a digital image may be captured by the means for converting optical images to digital images.
40. The digital camera of claim 39, wherein each image template has an associated
 - 2 sample image, each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context.

41. A computer-readable storage medium containing program code for execution in a
 - 2 digital camera, comprising a first code segment that comprises a collection of
 - image templates, each image template having a corresponding image capture
 - 4 context in the digital camera.
42. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, wherein each image template
 - 2 has an associated sample image, each sample image being optionally replaceable,
 - in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image capture
 - 4 context.
43. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, further comprising:
 - 2 a second code segment that activates, in response to the selection of an
 - image template, the corresponding image capture context in the digital camera.
44. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, wherein at least one image
 - 2 template in the collection includes instructions for capturing the digital image
 - while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.